

FORESTNEWS

**Del Monte Forest
Property Owners**

a non-profit California Corporation
3101 Forest Lake Road
Pebble Beach, CA 93953
831.373.1618 phone
office@dmfpo.org
www.dmfpo.org

**Who Owned the Sawmill
at Sawmill Gulch?** - by Neel Hotelling

January - March 2015

Rancho Point Pinos – Pacific Grove and northern Del Monte Forest – was the subject of some of the county’s earliest ownership disputes. Sawmill Gulch, or Saw Dust Gulch as it was known in the late 1800s, is on Rancho Point Pinos. David Jacks finally assembled all of the disparate pieces under his ownership, but by then the sawmill was history.

An 1876 map references the “Ruins of Sawmill.”

A description of the sawmill appeared in the *Alta California* of December 18, 1858: “One sawmill in the county, owned by D.S. Gregory and H. DeGraw, situated on Point Pinos Rancho, 60 horsepower steam, cuts 20,000 feet of lumber in 24 hours, a superior quality of pine for planking streets or bridges, where toughness and durability are essential; it possesses qualities superior to any lumber in the state of Oregon.”

Henry DeGraw, Monterey’s young sheriff in 1858, and Durrell S. Gregory, a young lawyer, were not the first owners. The ownership trail of the sawmill is challenging to trace; even its origination is unclear.

One of the earliest surveys in Pebble Beach Company’s archives shows the “Lands of Don Jose Abrego” with both New Saw Pits and Old Saw Pits to the west of the gulch. This seems to date the sawmill to before January 1850, when Abrego sold the land to a group of prominent Yankees: Thomas Larkin, James Gleason,



Example of an historic sawmill circa 1860.

Milton Little and Jacob Leese. However, after the title was challenged in 1851, Abrego again became part owner of the rancho and therefore the survey may have been conducted later.

Rancho Point Pinos was granted to José Maria Armenta by Governor Figueroa on May

24, 1833. Armenta died in 1838. Six years later, his widow sold the rancho to Don José Abrego shortly before she died, leaving four grown children. Following the purchase, Abrego received an affirming grant from Governor Michelterreno. The politics of the peninsula changed soon thereafter, with the Mexican War (1846-48), and coming statehood.

Abrego had arrived at Monterey from Mexico in 1834 and married into a powerful family. His wife, Josefa Estrada, was the half-sister of the future Governor Alvarado and niece of General Vallejo. Several of her Vallejo aunts also married immigrants.



Don Jose Abrego
1813 - 1878

Among her uncles were Jose Amesti, Captain John Cooper (half-brother of Thomas Larkin), and Jacob Leese.

In March of 1843, Captain Stephen Smith’s brigantine arrived in Monterey carrying three pianos on board, the first believed to have arrived in California. Don Jose Abrego purchased the first for \$600. General Vallejo purchased the second from Captain Smith upon landing in San Francisco. The third was sold by Captain Smith to [Eulogio F. de Celis] of Los Angeles.



Jacob Primer Leese
1809 - 1892

(Continued on page 3)

DMFPO Past-President's Message



Past President & Director
Don Eastman

It is a bittersweet revelation that I joined the DMFPO Board of Directors in August, 2006, served as Vice-President in 2008 and 2009, and performed as President of the Board of Directors for the five year period between January, 2010 and December, 2014. One sweet part is that I dearly believe in term-limits on volunteer boards. Term limits are good for the organization, and also for the volunteers. One bitter part is that I truly enjoyed serving on the DMFPO board and being part of the enormous progress we made between the beginning of 2010 and the end of 2014. Other sweet aspects are the privilege of serving over the years with so many devoted, capable and creative DMFPO board members and other stakeholders, and the fact that the slightly modified DMFPO board for January, 2015 is composed of twelve talented individuals that will take DMFPO forward into next year and ensuing seasons developing a slightly different personality as time goes along.

DMFPO's long-term treasurer, Ned Van Roekel, is also leaving the board due to term limits. As I look back on the highlights of the last five years there are several things that deserve mention. DMFPO's membership is higher than it has ever been in Ned's and my memory. DMFPO's finances

are controlled and under Ned's guidance we have consistently operated in the black, with a one year reserve, and ended each year at our budgeted target. The DMFPO newsletter is a significantly improved and popular publication. Much more information including timely posting of board and committee meeting minutes are uploaded and contained in the DMFPO web-site. In addition to the highly successful series of DMFPO semi-annual meetings, we have added seminars to our informational outreach. Two flu clinics each October are another addition to DMFPO's programming. Of all the accomplishments that were made during my last five years on the board, the most notable is the interaction that has developed between the Pebble Beach Company and DMFPO on the subject of the roads.

Three words describe the culture of DMFPO in the last five years: communications, diplomacy and promptness. Ned and I know that the DMFPO board will continue this culture and build on it.

DMFPO DIRECTORS

*LeBon Abercrombie
Bart Bruno
Debra Graham
Bob Hutchison
Ron Lema
Maureen Lyon
Baiba McGibben
Doris Nishimoto*

OFFICERS

President
Kamlesh Parikh
Vice President
Jeffrey Fuller
Secretary
Brenda Anderson
Treasurer
Jack McKenna

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Roads/Land Use
Bob Hutchison
Traffic & Safety
Jeffrey Fuller
Membership
Bob Hutchison
Nominating
Baiba McGibben
Website
LeBon Abercrombie

NEWSLETTER

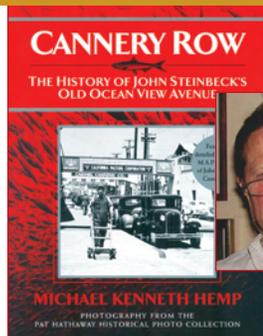
Editor/Design
*LeBon Abercrombie
Ned Van Roekel
Laura Dadiw*
Writers
*Neal Hotelling
Lynn Carmichael
Annie Holdren
Don Eastman
Mty Co. Sheriff's Dept.*

DMFPO Sunday Afternoon Seminar - Historical Cannery Row

DMFPO will host a seminar
Sunday, February 1, 2015

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the

Pebble Beach Community
Services District board room
Forest Lake & Lopez Roads
next to the Fire Station



featuring
Michael Hemp
Historian
author of
CANNERY ROW,
The History of
John Steinbeck's
Old Ocean View Avenue

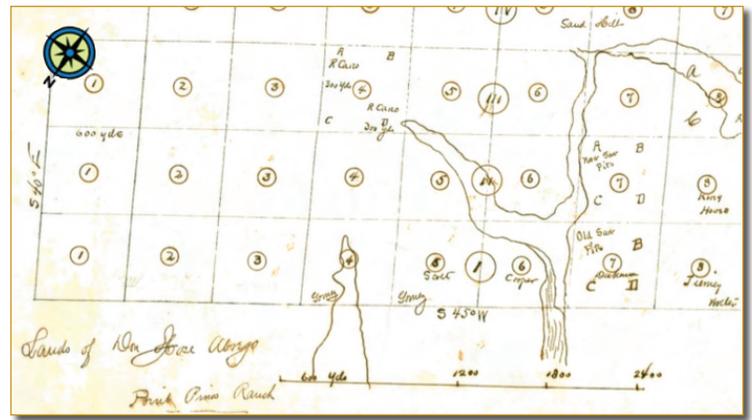
Sawmill Gulch (Continued from page 1)

On January 15, 1850, Abrego sold the rancho to the Yankees; then, on October 30, 1851, a judge ruled that the 1833 grant had been to Armenta and his heirs. He ruled the eldest son (not the mother) sold his rights to Abrego, but he could not sell the rights of his three siblings. Each of the three was awarded an undivided quarter interest; then each deeded half to their attorney, Pacificus Ord. Over the next two decades, the undivided portions were further split, sold, and occasionally acquired through tax auctions.

Little and Gleason sued Abrego but settled out of court. Leese wrote to Larkin on December 13, 1851: "The ranch now stands in the name of Larkin, Leese and Abrigo, so we will have Abrigo with us instead of Little and Gleson."¹ While ownership disputes and an appeal of the 1851 ruling continued, Larkin sold his rights to Leese in 1852.

On April 29, 1853, William J. Eames, an agent for Larkin reported that Leese was "putting up a steam saw mill on Point Pinos. I should not be surprised if it broke him as I do not believe they can compete with the Oregon mills."² This is the only clear reference to the beginning of the mill. Starting a sawmill was a very different venture and apparently didn't hold Leese's interest.

The sawmill is referenced in a June 1853 land transaction: "being the same lot on which stands the sawmill—together with roads and privileges, steam saw mill, etc." In this deed Andrew Randall purchased an undivided one-third interest in the lot from Stephen Hutchison (no record of how Hutchison acquired). Randall also bought Abrego's interest but fell on hard times in 1854. Leese sued and forced Randall to surrender his interest in the sawmill. Abrego also sued, reacquiring his interest in the rancho. In 1857, Abrego sold to Gregory and Leese sold to DeGraw, aligning with the description above.



Detail of survey of the Point Pinos Rancho lands of Don Jose Abrego, who owned the rancho from 1844-1850. Note the Old Saw Pit and New Saw Pit to the west of the gulch (compass added). The terrain was modified with the construction of MPCC's Dunes Course, with the saw pits sites most likely in the area of the 6th fairway. PBC Lagorio Archives



Detail of a circa-1870 Point Pinos survey showing pre-development route of Saw Dust Gulch. In 1867, David Jacks sold a 116-acre ranch site to Felipe Gomez that crossed over the Rancho borders (bottom center is El Pescadero, bottom right Jacks' Pueblo Lands). It was later annexed as the Del Monte Park area of Pacific Grove. PBC Lagorio Archives

Gregory sold his interest to Charles Brown of Santa Cruz in 1860, but between 1861 and 1862, no fewer than seven suits were brought against DeGraw. On September 15, 1862 DeGraw sold to Theron R. Hopkins, and died the next year. It is unclear if anyone operated the sawmill after DeGraw. It appears Eames was correct in his assessment that the mill would not be successful.

David Jacks acquired Brown's share of the rancho in 1867, Hopkins' share in 1873, and then finished buying up the small irregular shares to assure he had clear title. In May of 1880, Jacks sold the rancho to Pacific Improvement Company, the predecessor to Pebble Beach Company. ∞

¹Larkin Papers, Vol. IX, p.71 ²Ibid, p. 252

Scam Calls on the Rise

The Monterey County Sheriff's Office is warning the public and businesses about being the target of scam telephone calls. If you are a victim of one of these scams, immediately contact your local law enforcement agency.



The Jury Duty Scam

The caller tells the intended victim they failed to show up for a jury summons and a bench warrant has been issued for their arrest. But if money is sent to pay the fine, the judge would show leniency.

The Grandson Scam (or Borderline Scam)

The caller says they are the intended victim's grandson and have been in a car accident across the border in Canada (or Mexico), been arrested and need bail money. Often you will unknowingly provide them with your grandson's name. The caller will say "Hi grandma/grandpa it's your grandson." Your immediate unconscious response is usually "Jeffrey?" "Yes, grandma, it's me Jeffrey."

The CIA Scam

The caller will tell the intended victim they are from the CIA, their spouse is in serious trouble and money is needed to help them.

The Invoice Scam

Fraudulent invoices are sent to businesses for fire inspections or toner/office supplies. Often these invoices will be paid by the business. It is then later discovered that no fire inspection was ever performed (or that it was even a legitimate company). The invoice may not be from the company where you order supplies and the supplies listed have not been received.

The IRS Scam

The caller will tell the intended victim they are from the IRS and demand immediate payment without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed. The caller requires a specific payment method such as prepaid debit card. Threats are made to bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

Remember, be alert to telephone and internet scams. Be wary of a caller who uses threats in an attempt to get you to pay a fine or send money via Western Union. You may be asked to purchase a Green Dot card at a business like CVS/Pharmacy and load it with a designated amount. You will be told to call them after you have sent the money so they can immediately retrieve it, making it harder to stop a transfer once you discover it is fraudulent.

If you send money initially at their request, you will be called back a short time later asking for more money. Often the Caller ID on a telephone will show a name of a legitimate agency. This is known as "spoofing".

The following websites have more information on the various types of scams:

<http://www.usa.gov/topics/consumer/scams-fraud.shtml>

www.fbi.gov/scams-safety - click on Scams & Safety, then the "Be Crime Smart" section.

<http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0076-phone-scams>

You can also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov



Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC) works closely with the Open Space Advisory Committee to identify and control populations of invasive plants in and around the Forest while working to educate residents.

One of the most visible invasive plants in the forest is Pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata*). It is tempting to include its beautiful feathery plumes in yards and gardens. But Pampas grass spreads very quickly and is quite difficult to remove once it is established.



Spanish Bay Pampas Grass Eradication Project (L-R) Eddy and Eleanor Fagin, Bruce Cowan, Unknown, Judy Cowan, Beatrice Howitt - 1976



Poison Hemlock

Maybe you have driven along Del Monte Forest roadways and admired the yellow flowers on French Broom (*Genista monspessulana*). It is pretty but very invasive, and requires a constant battle to keep it under control. When thickets of genista dry in late summer, they spread long-lived seeds in abundance and become an extreme fire hazard.



Blackwood Acacia

Other invasive plants you see here in the forest are Blackwood Acacia (*Acacia melanoxylon*), Bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Cape Ivy (*Delairea odorata*), English Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), Myoporum (*Myoporum laetum*), Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), Prickly Moses acacia and the Sydney acacia. Another pesky visitor is the panic veldt



Bull Thistle

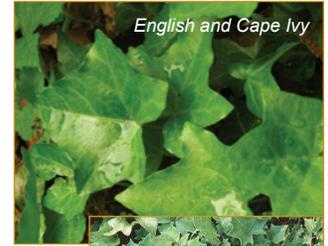


Panic Veldt Grass

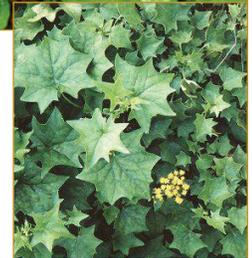
grass (*Ehrharta erecta*), a perennial from South Africa that disperses thousands of seeds year around. It thrives in many habitats, from open sandy slopes and dunes to dense shade under redwoods and Monterey cypress. Panic veldt grass grows unnoticed until it has displaced native ground cover, tree seedlings, and shrubs. It is a real pest in home gardens.



Prickly Moses



English and Cape Ivy



The Del Monte Forest Conservancy employs a certified forester. Together with volunteer naturalists, the Pebble Beach Company, the Monterey Peninsula Country Club, and others, these plants are identified and their growth controlled.



Myoporum



French Broom



Sydney Acacia

DMFC is dedicated to conserving the coastal Del Monte Forest. With your help by being selective in your landscape planning and keeping a watchful eye for invasive plants in your garden, we will continue to succeed.



Gorse



**DEL MONTE FOREST
PROPERTY OWNERS**

A NON-PROFIT CALIFORNIA CORPORATION

3101 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #10
Pebble Beach,
CA

Pebble Beach residents now have a place to safely dispose of expired or unwanted household medications, medicinal liquids, vitamins, supplements, needles and syringes. Drop them off at the Pebble Beach Fire Station lobby Monday - Thursday, 10 am - 4 pm. Please leave medications in original or sealed containers, remove prescription labels or mark out personal information.



If you haven't done so yet, you can send your e-mail address to office@dmfpo.org to receive updates on Highway One/68 Roundabout construction information as it becomes available

Pipping and Fitting in the Pines

Nature Notes from the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

Although pygmy nuthatches are abundant in the pines of Del Monte Forest, they are easy to overlook. Winter is the season when these tiny birds gather in large, noisy flocks. Start by listening for them; then look for them.

A pygmy nuthatch measures 4 inches long and weighs about three-tenths of an ounce. It has a slate-gray back and wings, whitish underparts, and a warm gray cap. It uses its sharp, straight bill to probe little crevices in the bark and between needles of pine trees, searching for insects to eat. To keep its little body going, a pygmy nuthatch's food intake for one day totals 10 calories.

The shrill bip-bip-bip call of a pygmy nuthatch has been compared to the sound of Morse code or a rubber ducky being squeezed repeatedly. When

many birds gather in a group, their calls combine to make steady, conversation-like chatter.

When you see a pygmy nuthatch fly from one pine to the next, keep watching. More of these gregarious birds are sure to follow. Pygmy

nuthatches breed in large, extended family groups. In the winter-time family groups join larger flocks that forage and pile into overnight roosts together. No records exist of a pygmy nuthatch roosting alone.

If listening doesn't lead to seeing a pygmy nuthatch in the pines, visit the Museum of Natural History in Pacific Grove. The "Birds of Monterey County" collection has been moved into a gallery of well-lit cases where the viewing is easy. - Article by Annie Holdren, photo from Wikimedia

